



News Advisory

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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CHARLESTON C-17S SET UP EXPEDITIONARY AIRLIFT SQUADRON IN GERMANY

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA – Charleston-based C-17s have set up an Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The squadron, commanded by Lt. Col Pete Hirneise, 17th Airlift Squadron commander, consists of 12 jets and approximately 125 aircrew and staff personnel.

The squadron is working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in a stage, taking cargo and personnel into Afghanistan after it has been brought to our location by C-5s and C-17s from the United States, said Hirneise.

"The Expeditionary Airlift Squadrons are the Air Force's basic fighting units configured to deploy and employ in support of crisis action requirements," said 2nd Lt. Jim Carlsen, 437th Operations Group executive officer. "In the old days, members were randomly picked from a variety of squadrons to form a deployed squadron. Now, with the EAS concept, almost the entire unit is transplanted from their home station to the deployed unit."

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“They are there to provide the planning, training and oversight that the squadron would normally perform back in the United States, “ said Col. Bob Allardice, 437th Operations Group commander. “Now they can perform at a forward located base so they can focus on the operation at hand and provide the most up-to-date tactics and intelligence to the crews before they fly.”

“Members deployed to these squadrons will be out for approximately 45-90 days and then rotated back here for training and, if it’s available, time off,” said Allardice. “These squadrons will allow Air Mobility Command to be even more effective in supporting our nation.”

Media interested in a possible trip to Rhein-Main to cover the C-17 operations in February should contact Capt. Krista Carlos at 963-3383 or 2nd Lt. Jennifer Andrews at 963-5588 no later than Jan. 30.